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deed, no English historian with whose works we are acquainted has ever carried his insular prejudices to so absurd an extent. It is not, perhaps, surprising that Mr. St. John should think that the English women have always been the most beautiful in the world, and that the English people are superior to all other nations, and it is only a harmless exhibition of national vanity for him to say so ; but when he permits this notion, as he constantly does, to distort his narrative of historical transactions, and to color his portraiture of historical personages, his views become a fit subject for animadversion. For instance, he intimates that the famous Bayard may have modelled his character on that of Harold ; and in another place, he says of Harold : " All the attributes which distinguish the English as a nation he possessed in a pre-eminent degree, — frank, honest, liberal, generous without ostentation, religious without bigotry, and superstitious in nothing save in attachment to the soil that gave him birth." The same disposition to play the advocate is apparent in every part of the work, and gives to it a partisan tone which greatly diminishes the reader's confidence in the narrative. In several other respects, also, Mr. St. John's labors are open to criticism. He devotes a disproportionate space to his accounts of battles which have lost all the significance they ever possessed, and at the best were little else than struggles between half-barbarous tribes, and he tells us very little of the laws, institutions, and customs of the early inhabitants of Britain, and of their successive conquerors. Nor does he ever attempt to penetrate beneath the surface of events, and point out the connection of cause and effect. His History will scarcely supersede the less accurate, but more philosophical, narrative of Hume, or lead to a reversal of the commonly received opinions respecting the events which are here described and the characters which are here delineated.

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6. — *Gleanings from Westminster Abbey*, by GEORGE GILBERT SCOTT, R. A., F. S. A. With Appendices supplying Further Particulars, and completing the History of the Abbey Buildings. Illustrated by numerous Plates and Woodcuts. Oxford and London : J. H. and James Parker. 1861. 8vo. pp. xvi. and 148.

THIS is one of the best books of its class which have ever fallen under our notice, and will prove equally attractive to the student of history and to the professional architect. The principal paper in it is an essay read before the Institute of British Architects, and afterward repeated before the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, by Mr. G. G. Scott, the architect employed in the restoration of the

Abbey buildings. In this paper Mr. Scott gives a very interesting and lucid account of the foundation of the Abbey, of the date of construction and the character of the different buildings within the Abbey precincts, and of their present condition, together with remarks on the details of workmanship, and much other curious information. The Appendices fill rather more than half of the volume, and comprise independent essays on Henry the Seventh's Chapel and Tomb, on the buildings erected by Edward the Confessor, on the Jerusalem Chamber, the Abbot's House, the Library and its contents, the Organ, the Monuments in the Abbey, and other subjects, by twelve gentlemen who have made special researches in regard to them, with extracts from the fabric rolls, and lists of the abbots, priors, bishops, and deans. The whole is abundantly illustrated with skilfully executed plans and drawings, showing the most minute details of construction. Nothing, indeed, seems to have been omitted which could be sought for in such a monograph of one of the oldest and most perfect specimens of Gothic architecture in England; and no one can study the volume without a feeling of increased respect for the persistent energy with which mediæval piety sought to give a durable expression to the religious sentiment, and for the exquisite taste with which every detail was elaborated in the cathedrals and churches of the Middle Age.

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7. — *The History of Scottish Poetry.* By DAVID IRVING, LL. D., Author of "The Life of Buchanan," etc., etc. Edited by JOHN AITKEN CARLYLE, M. D. With a Memoir and Glossary. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas. 1861. 8vo. pp. xxxi. and 619.

THOUGH this History is now first published, it was announced as in preparation more than thirty years ago, and was probably completed not long afterward. During this interval considerable new light has been thrown on the subject of which it treats; but Mr. Irving does not appear to have availed himself of any of the recent publications of this class, and his work is given to the world in the form in which it was left at his death, a few years ago, and without the benefit of his final revision. It cannot, therefore, be regarded as quite abreast of the latest inquiries into the history of Scotch literature, and it is not, to any considerable extent, a work of original investigation, like Ticknor's "History of Spanish Literature," or Hallam's "Introduction to the Literature of Europe." Mr. Irving, however, was a man of much literary taste, and his position as librarian of the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh gave him great advantages in the preparation of such